Peer Consulting Groups

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Annotated Bibliography/Summary

Researchers have found that school counselors just graduating from the school counseling program or even interning can be isolated or find trouble in finding or maintaining resources that may help better them in their jobs. Therefore, there was a school counselor alumni peer consultation group that was created. This group was created as an innovative approach to aid in the ongoing development for professional school counselors. This group focuses on giving support and networking chances for a new counselor. This group also allows school counselors, new or experienced to come together and discuss issues on counseling and suggest different strategies in solving problems.

Group participants meet approximately 2 hours on a campus once every other month equaling five times throughout an academic year. Group goals are very beneficial because it creates a networking opportunity, and a chance to collaborate on school counseling issues. Groups are created by any school counselor that would like to join is able to join. The facilitator of the group emails all graduates who have shown an interest in this group and lets them know when the first meeting of the year will be.

The peer-mentoring group has supplied good collaboration of such topics of substance abuse and ethical and legal topics. The budget for this mentoring group is just under $1000, which includes copying costs, snacks and drinks for meetings, and a small stipend for the facilitator. Overall, this group supplies, peer consultation for ongoing support, collaboration, and professional and professional development.

Critique

It has been told to this author that school counselors experience a form of frustration and isolation. Thomas even observed a need for counselors to meet together and have the opportunity to collaborate together. It is a good idea to create a group in order to aid the school counselors that are just beginning their career journey and also a the school counselor that has been in the system for a while. This author would like to be in one but if she was she would focus on getting the word out to other counselors in the community. Thomas (2005) only mentioned that if someone wanted to be involved in the group then they could contact the facilitator. But this author would send an email out to all local county school guidance counselors and let them know of this opportunity. As Thomas mention it could be a great networking tool. Also, the peer group could use the experienced counselor to help mentor the new counselors. There would be occasional meetings that are open to any school counselor in order to better the school counseling programs and also to better oneself in being a counselor. Overall, this could be a very beneficial aspect in the beginning career’s of a young counselor.

References

Thomas, S. (2005). The School Counselor Alumni Peer onsultation

Group. *Counselor Education and Supervision* , *45*, 16-29. Eric.